

PROGRAM MEMORANDUM

To: Senior Corporate Officials, Patient Safety Officers, Facility System Managers, PA-PSRS Users, Department of Health Staff, and Authority Staff

From: Patient Safety Authority Program Office

Date: July 23, 2021

Re: Program Memorandum No. 2021-01 Updates to the Demographics Questions in Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System to Occur January 1, 2022

The Patient Safety Authority (PSA) is planning updates to the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS) demographics questions. These changes will impact reporting for all acute care facilities.

To ensure inclusivity and gain the ability to monitor, trend, and identify important patient safety issues affecting specific populations, PSA is replacing the current gender question and adding additional demographics questions that will be required for all incidents and serious events in PA-PSRS:

Gender Identity:

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- Non-binary or Genderqueer
- Something else
- Patient declined to answer
- Not asked

Sex assigned at birth:

- Female
- Male
- Not asked

Sexual Orientation:

- Bisexual
- Lesbian, gay or homosexual
- Straight or heterosexual
- Something else
- Patient declined to answer
- Not asked

Race:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Patient declined to answer
- Not Asked

Ethnicity:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Other
- Patient declined to answer
- Not Asked

Patient's Zip Code:

Harm Score A and Infrastructure Failure Events:

Since Harm Score A and Infrastructure failure events are often not patient related, PA-PSRS will now have a question that is presented **ONLY** if the user selects **Harm Score A** or **Infrastructure failure**. This initial question will ask “Is the Event Related to a Specific Patient?” The only response options are Yes and No.

If the response is “Yes”, the patient related questions will be displayed. Patient related questions include: Date of Admission, Patient Status, Age of Affected Patient, and the Demographics questions listed above. If the response is “No,” the patient related questions will not be asked.

If the event is **NOT** a Harm Score A or Infrastructure failure, all patient related questions will be mandatory, including the new demographics questions.

Data Interface Updates and Testing

Facilities that use the PA-PSRS Data Interface will need to work with their vendor to update any internal event reporting systems. PA-PSRS will require all Interface submissions to use schema version 8.0 and be compliant with these new data standards. Due to the sensitive nature of these files, facilities must request the updated version of the Data Interface documentation and schema file (*.xsd) version 8.0 by contacting the PA-PSRS Support Desk at support_papsrs@pa.gov.

Testing for facilities using the Data Interface will begin in October and will require four conformance tests to be completed. If changes are not made by January 1, 2022, batches will be rejected.

Testing for facilities not using the Data Interface will begin in December.

The PA-PSRS updates will begin on **Friday, December 31, 2021** and be completed by **Saturday, January 1, 2022**. During a period of time between 12/31/2021 and 1/1/2022 **facilities will be unable to report events into PA-PSRS**. The Patient Safety Authority and the Department of Health understand the impact of this temporary interruption to facility reporting during these necessary updates to PA-PSRS. All events that occur during the downtime will need to be entered once the system is available on Saturday, January 1, 2022. Downtime specifics and details will be shared later this year.

Timeline / Facility Actions

When	Facility Action
Now	Facilities using the Data Interface should email the PA-PSRS help desk at support_papsrs@pa.gov to request the revised PA-PSRS data interface documentation and schema version 8.0 and review the updates.
Now	Facilities using the data interface should begin working with their internal reporting system vendors to apply the updated interface specifications and schema.
October 2021	Testing begins for facilities using the data interface. Four conformance tests will be required.
December 2021	Testing begins for facilities manually entering events in PA-PSRS
January 1, 2022	New demographics questions implemented. Facilities using the data interface submission are required to use schema version 8.0 and be compliant with these new data standards. If changes are not made by January 1, 2022, batches will be rejected.

Please feel free to email the PA-PSRS Support Desk at support_papsrs@pa.gov with any questions and stay tuned for further communications as the implementation date approaches.

Sincerely,
The Patient Safety Authority